

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 USNATO 03433 050720Z  
ACTION EUR-12

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0478  
SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 03433

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: MPOL, NATO, GW  
SUBJECT: PROPOSED AGENDA FOR SECRETARY BROWN'S MEETING  
WITH MINISTER APEL - NATO LONG TERM DEFENSE PROGRAM (LTDP)

REFS: (A) BONN 5948 DTG 031703Z APR 78, (B) BONN 5954  
DTG 031732Z APR 78, (C) USNATO 3372 DTG 031606Z APR 78

1. GENERAL ALTENBURG'S STATEMENT TO EMBASSY BONN THAT APEL IS NOT INTERESTED IN BEING PRESSED ANY FURTHER BY THE US ON THE SUBJECT OF THE LONG TERM DEFENSE PROGRAM (REF A) IS CONSISTENT WITH THE FRG DEFAD'S STATEMENT TO THE US DEFAD THAT PRESSURING NATIONS, INCLUDING THE FRG, TOO HARD ON THE LTDP DURING THE WEEKS AHEAD COULD RISK PROVOKING COUNTER PRODUCTIVE REACTIONS (REF C).
2. NEVERTHELESS, WE WONDER WHETHER DE-EMPHASIZING THE LTDP ON THE AGENDA FOR SECRETARY BROWN'S DISCUSSIONS WITH MINISTER APEL MIGHT NOT GIVE THE WRONG SIGNAL. THE LIST THAT THE FRG PRESENTED ON ITS OWN INITIATIVE HAS THE LTDP AS THE SECOND ITEM, LOGICALLY PROCEEDING FROM OR INTEGRAL TO THE FIRST ITEM -- NATO SUMMIT. (WE ASSUME THE GERMAN LIST IS AT LEAST ROUGHLY IN CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 USNATO 03433 050720Z

PRIORITY ORDER.) THE LTDP IS, AFTER ALL, ONE OF THE MAJOR CENTERPIECES OF THE SUMMIT. FURTHER, IT PROVIDES THE FRAMEWORK FOR CONSIDERATION OF OTHER ITEMS FOR THE BONN AGENDA THAT ARE COMPONENTS OF THE LTDP. FOR EXAMPLE, THE TASK FORCE 5 RECOMMENDATIONS ASSUME AWACS AS A STARTING POINT FOR OTHER AIR DEFENSE IMPROVEMENTS. MOREOVER, GREATER ALLIANCE COOPERATION

IS THE ESSENCE OF THE LTDP AND PROVIDES A SPRINGBOARD FOR MATTERS OF DETAIL SUCH AS HOST NATION SUPPORT AND POMCUS AS WELL AS FOR LARGER QUESTIONS SUCH AS THE TRANSATLANTIC DIALOGUE.

3. CONSEQUENTLY, WE BELIEVE IT MIGHT BE WELL TO GO ALONG WITH THE GERMAN LIST TO THE EXTENT OF PUTTING THE LTDP HIGH ON THE AGENDA. THERE ARE GOOD REASONS FOR HAVING IT THERE, AND PLACING IT FURTHER DOWN THE LIST MIGHT GIVE RISE TO AN INFERENCE THAT THE US ATTACHES LESS IMPORTANCE TO MAXIMUM FRG SUPPORT FOR THE LTDP THAN THE GERMANS HAD ANTICIPATED. BENNETT

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## Message Attributes

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